

The Herald of Freedom.

Wakarusa, Saturday, October 21, '54.

Kansas Territory.

The following article, descriptive of Kansas, we find in an eastern exchange, evidently from some other paper, but without credit:

Kansas, says the writer, extends between the parallel of 37° and 40° N. latitude, and 92° and 107° W. longitude, comprising about forty million acres; one-fourth of which is barren plain and mountain; and the larger remainder an undulating succession of fields of living verdure, bedged with soil, and the most desirable country, climate and all things considered, anywhere between the Allegheny and the Pacific.

A million of these acres were ceded by the Delaware, Kickapoo and Weas, in May, 1853, to be sold at auction for their benefit, after deducting the cost of surveying. The pioneer, therefore, who would make certain of his pre-emption, must obtain a copy of this treaty, if he would "squat" intelligently. It is not, however, of any importance, as a fee of ten dollars will procure the owning title, and full three years must elapse before the land can come into market—now is the surveying into counties, towns and quarter sections, a process dependent upon the industry of officials and clerks of the office. No instance is on record in which a similar work has been effected in less than four years. When exposed to sale, the settler is entitled to the first bid; and should another trespass on his premises, a new law passed over the claim does a significant hint that "first right" must be respected, for there is no imperial rule of "squatter sovereignty" is supreme.

Extending thirty miles west of the Missouri river, and an equal distance north of Kansas River, is the Shawnee Reserve, for which a treaty is now in progress, by which it is contemplated to distribute two hundred acres to each Indian with power to sell. This district is of alternate prairie and timber, rolling, well watered, and of surprising beauty and productivity.

The Wakarusa Creek, whose affluent runs along the dividing ridge of the Neosho, flowing northward, enters the Kansas near the western limit of the Shawnee Reserve; and eight miles beyond, the first company of the Anti-Slavery League have built in a rich, romantic country, containing limestone, a sufficiency of building stone, clay for brick, sand, coal mines, and other requisites for a sudden and brilliant prosperity. The Wakarusa, like most other western streams, is at places deeply incised, cleaving its banks canal-like, and revealing a flat black loam five feet in depth.

The Kansas, or Kaw, as it is there frequently called, is the important river of that part of the Territory destined to easy settlement. It is six hundred yards at the mouth, and ranges from four hundred to two hundred feet in width for several hundred miles above. During five months of the year it is navigable for steamboats for two hundred miles; and while the annual freight boats, which usually come as early as June, may be seconded a distance of six hundred miles. The Excel is reported to have made six trips this season, one hundred and fifty miles, to Fort Riley.

In these waters, the buffalo and cat-fish attain a weight of from thirty to one hundred pounds; and the numerous tributaries abound in perch, bass, roach, bull-heads, etc.

Here, and throughout the region of "all grass," which extends two hundred miles westward, there is still room enough to assure a generation of Nimrods; deer, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, rabbits, turkeys, quail, ducks, prairie-fowls, partridges, and pheasants are all about, and their names legion.

Straddling the banks of the river, and in clumps on the prairie are: pine, trees, several varieties of plums, wild cherry, the delicious pawpaw, persimmon, hazel-nut and hickory, white and black walnut, butternut, gooseberry, haw, and of all nuts, the unsurpassable pecan, with festoons of grapes of different kinds, and melons of strawberries, peaches, and others of the "apple race."

The soil is also well adapted to the culture of the apple, pear and current, and produces excellent crops of wheat, hemp, corn, buckwheat, oats, rye, Irish and sweet potatoes, tobacco, and all the vegetables of the Eastern and Middle States.

In the forest are nearly all the trees of value which line the eastern activity of the Allegheny—such as oak, birch, beech, maple, sycamore, hickory, ash, honey-loof, walrus, and that entitled of all the Rocky Mountain rivers, the stately cotton wood, to say of certain groves of black-jack, so diminutive, gnarled, knobby, and all of a twist, that they do—admirable.

Such is a poetic summary of the data from which the farmer-like individual may best judge of the large advantages and wealth of promise unfolded by that part of Kansas lying nearest to the old metes and bounds of civilization.

As to the climate, the influence of fever and ague, there is some of that, for I remember to have seen a Shawnee woman shake, but not to pieces; moreover, ague in the west is like cholera in a city—very most of it at a distance. Few other diseases are in vogue, seeing the institutions of French cookery and medical colleges are not to be introduced.

The climate is pleasant and healthy.—To be sure Old Boreas comes with a regular northern snarl occasionally; but generally, the winter is of brief duration, with but a few inches of snow; as indeed the same parallel in the West is always several degrees milder than by our eastern seaboard. And the ardent noon-time in summer is tempered by the soft south wind from the Cordillera, and refreshing showers accompanied with such unpatented thunder and lightning as modern melodrama will never imitate. This is of even-ings in August, the full round moon will float up its path of mellow splendor, until the on-looker is drunk to the spirit's core with the red glow that floods half the heaven. Such nights are not to be enjoyed anywhere else this side the Rocky Mountain crest.

I have now spoken of this eastern division, its appearance and resources, as I learned to know them after two months of constant rambling within its beautiful borders. For three weeks, we made our bivouac by Indian Creek in the Shawnee country, and every balmy day I was off, from the earliest of breakfasts to the closing of dusk; following sinuous trails; wading grassy chin deep, and upwards; running down of sloughs; following along slopes to where a gem of solitude bubbled up stream the greatest mound; peering into Indian huts; getting all the while more astonished at the positive ubiquity of squaws, especially mature ones; now and

then snickering at a rail-tailed buzzard in his peculiar flight; or entering the lists in a game of arrows with some symmetrical pagan boy, at the expense of our next door wooden-headed woodpecker. And after a week of the main jiggled-on at an average of seven miles a day, on power, for one month toward Cotton Grove, we had leisure to observe, and make many a side excursion; and in the lapse of these four years the hundred hills of Kansas are fresh in the memory yet.

It is pleasure to say here, that in the preparation of this sketch, the opportunity has been afforded of comparing my memoranda with the notes and conversation of an intelligent Missourian, Mr. George Walter, now in N. Y. at No. 110 Broadway. Mr. W. has spent much of his life in the vicinity of and among the scenes described; and with his added confirmation and suggestions, I have been more full and definite than could otherwise have been the case.

Central and Western Kansas are rich enough in material to form the subject of another paper.

Pennsylvanians Coming.

A company of about three hundred persons, mostly mechanics, several with families, were to leave Pennsylvania about the 1st of October, to locate in this Territory. We are not informed as to the precise point selected by them for a location, but we are assured that they are worthy persons, and will be an honor to the Territory, let them settle where they may. We shall bid them a hearty welcome on their arrival. At a meeting held by them, in Conestoga, Pa., on the 16th, the following business was transacted:—

The meeting was organized by electing C. Albright, Esq., of Cambria Co., Vice President; M. T. Carr, Jr., of Harrisburg, Vice President; M. B. Baynes and P. O. Conner, Secretaries.

On motion a committee consisting of W. F. Owen, G. W. Brown and C. Albright, Esq., was appointed to draft a Constitution for the government of the company who reported the following, which was unanimously adopted:—

CONSTITUTION.

ART. 1. Any person who is an American citizen, and purely American in principle, who is in favor of free labor and free speech, free schools and a free press, and is of a good moral character, may become a member of this Company by signing the Constitution, and taking one or more shares of the stock.

ART. 2. The officers of the Company shall be elected by ballot, and shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and six additional members.

The Board of Directors may appoint a Master of Emigration, a Treasurer and a General Agent.

ART. 3. Whenever the interests of the Company require, it shall be the duty of the Directors to appoint a Committee from the members of the Company to go to Kansas and select a location for a settlement.

ART. 4. When the location shall have been decided upon, 2,500 acres in the central part of the county shall be divided into not less than 2,000 lots, varying in size from one quarter acre to one acre each, reserving from the center a park of eighty acres, four parks of twenty acres each, at equal distance from the center, and at least eight parks, each the size of one block; all of which parks shall be reserved for public use.

ART. 5. The lots shall be reserved for the use of the Company, which shall afterwards be sold, with all improvements thereon, and the proceeds divided among the members in proportion to their investment.

ART. 6. The building lots to be disposed of by a premium for choice of location, at a public sale, when the first Company arrives. Said premiums to be used for making roads, streets and other necessary improvements.

ART. 7. The stock of the company shall consist of five dollars each, and one share shall constitute a membership.

ART. 8. Each member shall be entitled to vote at all the meetings of the Company, and shall receive from the proceeds of sale of its property in proportion to the amount of his investment; he shall also be entitled to one building lot for each share subscribed, provided that no person shall receive more than four lots.

All lots not occupied, and all which shall not have been previously sold, may be disposed of at auction at the expiration of two years from the first distribution of lots; the shareholders to receive the amount of one share for each lot with interest, and the balance to be divided among the members, pro rata.

ART. 9. When the County seat is surveyed, a map shall be made, subject to the approval of the residents; which map shall be kept in charge of one of the members chosen for that purpose.

ART. 10. It shall be the duty of the President to reside at all meetings of the Board, or of the Company, and with the advice of the Secretary, to call a meeting whenever the interests of the Company demand it.

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President during the absence of the latter.

The Treasurer shall keep all moneys belonging to the Company, and pay over the same by an order from the President.

All officers entrusted with the funds of the Company shall give a bond for security.

The Master of Emigration, with the Board of Directors to agree upon the time and conveniences for the departure of the Company, and to confer with the New York Kansas League, so as to make the best arrangements for conveyance, and to co-operate with said League generally, until the objects of this Company shall have been accomplished. He shall also proceed to Kansas with the members when necessary, or appoint one or more suitable persons for that purpose.

The Master of Emigration, and other persons employed by the League shall receive such compensation as shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

ART. 11. It shall be among the first objects of the Company to provide a grist mill and saw mill; a boarding house and dwellings for the convenience of settlers when they arrive.

ART. 12. It shall be among the duties of the Master of Emigration and Secretary to collect fresh and reliable information respecting the Territory of Kansas for the use of persons making inquiry; and such information to be printed at their discretion.

ART. 13. Alterations or additions may be made to this Constitution by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting of the Company, notice of such amendments being proposed in writing at a previous meeting.

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The American Settlement Company. A Company with the above name has been organized in New York, with the view of making a settlement at some advantageous place in the new Territory of Kansas. Geo. H. STEBBINS, Esq., 110 Broadway, N. Y., General Superintendent and MAX GREENE, Secretary.

We give below a copy of their Constitution:—

Resolved, That we, the undersigned, do hereby form ourselves into a society to be known as the "AMERICAN SETTLEMENT COMPANY," for the purpose of settling a Colony, in aid of founding a Free State, by the location of 240 acres of land in the Territory of Kansas, for each subscriber who may go to reside on said land, and form a municipal government, which shall have the literary, social and civil privileges of the old States, viz: Free schools, a Free Library, Lyceum and Reading Room, a Printing Press, Churches, &c.

For the accomplishment of which we pledge ourselves to maintain the following

CONSTITUTION.

ART. 1. Any person who is an American citizen, and purely American in principle, who is in favor of free labor and free speech, free schools and a free press, and is of a good moral character, may become a member of this Company by signing the Constitution, and taking one or more shares of the stock.

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Letter from Kansas. Since the publication of my former letter in the Era, I have received hundreds of letters from all parts of the country, enquiring about Kansas. Although wishing to impart all the information in my power, yet were I to devote all my time to letter writing, one half at least would go unanswered. A few put under personal obligations, so that I am at least obliged to write to them. Others whose letters may be unanswered, will from this learn the reason why. One wants to know "if the lands here are subject to pre-emption?" another, "if we get five or six acres, the cost of the survey?" etc.—things that are known all over the States weeks before we can possibly know them here, as we are fifty miles in an Indian country, and the same distance from Westport, Missouri, our nearest post office. Another wants to know "what kind of winters we have here, and what kind of summers?"—forgetting that I am just from Ohio, and have not resided in Kansas yet three weeks. Another wants to know "if we have the ague here, and if so, whether as bad as in Illinois?"—a place I never set foot upon—and so on ad infinitum. But hundreds of questions are asked; and so far as I possibly can, I wish to give a general answer. The lands purchased of the Indians embrace nearly fifteen millions of acres; of this, all except about eight hundred acres belonging to the Weas, south of the Kansas river, and lower north of said river, are subject to pre-emption. As to the Homestead bill, we know nothing of it here, whether passed or not, or whether it would apply to the Kansas lands or not. I think the Shawnee lands, south of the Kansas river, will be first settled; they appear to be settling fastest between the Kansas and Wakarusa rivers, on the California road.

To reach here, a person coming by the Missouri river should land at Kansas, cross the Shawnee Reserve, thirty miles, to Wakarusa river, and you come to the promised land. As to holding claims here, I refer the reader to the Constitution of the United States' Association, which, of course, you will publish. These laws will be respected, and justice administered here as peacefully as in the States. Claims are, however, frequently sold by settlers.

As to the soil, it is well watered; springs exist in abundance; prairie could not be richer; timber may be scarce in places, yet limestone and coal exist in abundance. Our timber consists principally of walnut, oak, cotton-wood, blue ash, etc. Soil of all kinds, from clay loam to rich, sandy soil; good clay, for brick or potter's ware, can be found. I am at least five hundred feet above the Kansas river, and only three miles from it, on the richest of soil. A pleasant breeze greets us from the south-west; to inhale a draught of it is almost equal to a drink of water. I am satisfied that the country is healthy, and much more so than in Ohio. Possibly some may have the ague, along the river, or other streams on the low lands. I think no difficulty would be experienced in securing a location for a "colony of any size," where water, timber, and stone exist sufficient for all purposes; yet to secure a place now, emigrants would have to go farther west. The Kansas river is nearly as large as the Missouri. Steamboats have been up one hundred and seventy-five miles to Fort Riley, and I think with small boats it may run that high the year round. There is good water privileges in the Territory. Horses, oxen, cows, and in fact, all kinds of stock are high—cows from \$25 to \$40; oxen, from \$75 to \$100 per yoke; good horses, from \$100 to \$150 per head. All kinds of furniture high—at least one third higher than in Ohio. Bacon 9¢ per lb. Flour, \$3.50 per 100 lb. Store goods a shade higher than in Ohio. I speak of the Kansas market in Missouri.

Notwithstanding the threats and browbeating of the settlers here, the greatest proportion of the settlers here are Northern people—nineteenth of the balance honest Southerners, who are coming, as they say, to get rid of slavery. I was much mistaken in the character of the Missourians. A few fanatics, who were resolved to extend slavery at all hazards, seem for the time being to give tone to the whole people; but a better acquaintance convinces me that a majority of the people condemned the violent resolutions passed at Westport and other places. But the fact is, that Westport will be another Atlanta. Blood is in her heart. Hundreds will shut her, and Kansas, only four miles further, will reap the fruits of her treason.

"Do you apprehend any serious difficulties with slaveholders?" is frequently asked. I answer, no, although they have boasted and threatened much, yet they are not fools, and well know the shedding of Northern blood, to sustain slavery here, would raise a storm that would end only with slavery itself. Northern men need not fear; all they have to do is to be true to themselves, and not coward-like, buckle to the demands of these slaveholders, who yolk their lips, and "wait till the proper time to meet this question." Now is the proper time—now is the time that the slaveholders are moving heaven and earth to establish slavery here; and now is the time, like men, we should meet them, and not like cowards, cry "Hush, be quiet, don't agitate the question now; wait till we are stronger."

One explanation is necessary here. In speaking of missions, in my last, I did not make the proper distinction. My remarks were true as to the mission of the Society, but not as to the mission of Dr. Still, a true man, who also has a mission here.

One word to newspaper copyers who copy my articles. Do not put words into my mouth which I never utter. Copy exact from the Era, or not at all. Much injustice was done me in a former article by a portion of the eastern press. Besides, those who copy my sayings will do me a favor by complying with the "courtesies of the press."

One word to emigrants. Those who have money can do well here. Lands which can be got for nothing now, by paying a year hence Government price, I honestly think in two years will be worth \$25 to \$30 an acre. No new country ever settled one-fifth part as fast as Kansas is now settling. Emigrants are arriving in scores; tents are stretched all over the prairie; cabins are going up in all directions. Labor is plenty. A man, though poor, if he can and will work, can do well here. A man with only a team is independent. But to those who have no means, can't work, want money, Kansas is no place for you. Emigrants must expect to meet some hardships. We have no house to receive you in; everything is in the right kind; with pioneer hearts. Society is good; we are all sociable and accommodating, and the person who now has the reward shows their willingness to confer it upon him.

Our neighbors over in Missouri have offered a reward of \$200 for the delivery of ELI THAYER, Esq., President of the Emigrant Aid Company, into their hands. I honestly think in two years will be worth \$25 to \$30 an acre. No new country ever settled one-fifth part as fast as Kansas is now settling. Emigrants are arriving in scores; tents are stretched all over the prairie; cabins are going up in all directions. Labor is plenty. A man, though poor, if he can and will work, can do well here. A man with only a team is independent. But to those who have no means, can't work, want money, Kansas is no place for you. Emigrants must expect to meet some hardships. We have no house to receive you in; everything is in the right kind; with pioneer hearts. Society is good; we are all sociable and accommodating, and the person who now has the reward shows their willingness to confer it upon him.